

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-05 VO-03 USIE-00 COME-00 RSC-01

SSO-00 /024 R

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SCA/VO - MR. BLEVINS (SUBS)

CU/EA - MR. HARDING (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, TW

SUBJECT: ROC NATIONAL OPERA TROUPE VISIT TO US

REF: (A) TAIPEI 5927; (B) TAIPEI 5986

1. H-1 PETITION FOR OPERA TROUPE WAS APPROVED BY INS
SEPTEMBER 23. INFORMATION TO PERMIT VISA ISSUANCE IS
BEING PROVIDED EMBASSY IN SEPTEL. SPOKANE VISIT,
INCIDENTALLY, WAS NOT INCLUDED IN H PETITION APPLICATION,
NOR IN ROC EMBASSY NOTE TO DEPARTMENT DETAILING GROUP'S
US ITINERARY. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION, HOWEVER, TO SPOKANE
VISIT (ASIDE FROM IRRITATION AT NOT HAVING BEEN INFORMED
UNTIL NOW) AND THIS ADDITION NEED NOT HINDER VISA ISSUANCE.

2. AS FOR 49 ACROBATS (NATIONAL CHINESE VARIETY TROUPE),
NO H PETITION HAS YET BEEN FILED. ROC EMBASSY INFORMS
US THAT LO I-CHAN, GIO REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK, NEVER
HEARD OF GROUP. EMBASSY ITSELF FIRST HEARD OF GROUP IN
SKETCHY CABLE FROM ROC EDUCATION MINISTRY SEPTEMBER 24.
WE TOLD ROC EMBASSY HERE WHAT INFORMATION IS NECESSARY
TO FILE H PETITION AND, WHEN THEY COME UP WITH INFORMA-
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TION, WE WILL DO WHAT WE CAN TO EXPEDITE INS APPROVAL.
UPON RECEIPT OF REF B, WE ASKED ROC EMBASSY TO CONTACT
TENG IN SPOKANE TO FIND OUT WHAT HE HAS DONE. INS
OFFICES IN SEATTLE AND SPOKANE REPORT, HOWEVER, THAT NO
PETITION APPLICATION RECEIVED AS OF LATE SEPTEMBER 23.

WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO EITHER APPROVE H PETITION OR B-1
AUTHORITY BY SEPTEMBER 27.

3. WE ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT GROC HAS ONCE AGAIN WAITED
UNTIL LAST MINUTE TO BEGIN ITS VISA APPLICATION PRO-
CEDURES AND PARTICULARLY BY LAST MINUTE CONTORTIONS OF
ACROBATIC GROUP. AS EMBASSY AWARE, THERE ARE MORE THAN
ENTERTAINMENT CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED. IT WAS PRECISELY
THIS TYPE OF SITUATION WHICH LED TO OUR RECENT SERIOUS
DIFFICULTIES WITH "CHINA STARS" GROUP. WE HAD FRANKLY
HOPED THAT GROC HAD LEARNED THE NECESSARY LESSON FROM
THAT EXPERIENCE. WE HAVE MENTIONED THESE THOUGHTS
BLUNTLY TO ROC EMBASSY HERE. YOU MAY WISH TO FOLLOW
UP IN TAIPEI. FYI. DEPENDING ON THE PLACE OF APPLICA-
TIONS AND COMPLETENESS OF INFORMATION, IT NORMALLY
TAKES ABOUT TWO WEEKS TO PROCESS H PETITION FROM ROC,
PLUS ADDITIONAL TIME IS NECESSARY FOR INS ACTION OFFICE
TO MAIL APPROVED PETITION TO EMBASSY VIA DEPARTMENT.
END FYI.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, TRADE FAIRS, VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE211342
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TBLEHA:BDS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D740270-0506
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740986/aaaahsze.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) TAIPEI 5927; (B) TAIPEI 5986
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971202
Subject: ROC NATIONAL OPERA TROUPE VISIT TO US
TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, TW, NATIONAL CHINESE VARIETY TROUPE, NATIONAL OPERA TROUPE
To: TAIPEI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005